Heavenly Children

The Little Scholar

Imam al-Hadi (A)

12

SUGGESTED AGES 7+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS
Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj).
May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Original Author

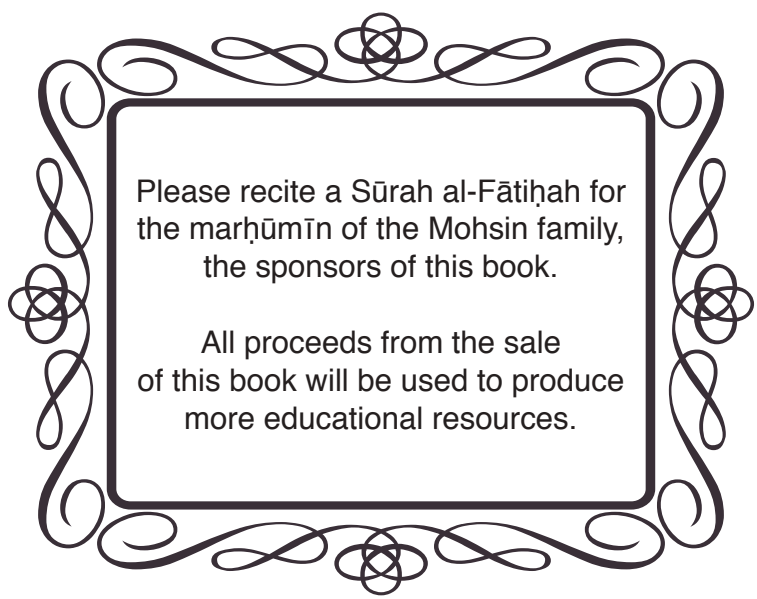
Abul Faḍl Hādī Manish

Acknowledgments

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.
Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah (swt), but we would like to sincerely thank Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Brother Aliakbar Shaheidari, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Fatemah Mithani, Amna Hussain, Asieh Zarghami, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Kisae Nazar, Sarah Assaf, Nadia Dossani, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Fatima Hussain, Fatemah Meghji, Abeda Khimji, Sakeena Kalyan, Zehra Abbas, and Rumina Hashmani. We would especially like to thank Nainava Publications for their artwork and contributions.

May Allah (swt) bless them in this world and the next.


Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Mohsin family, the sponsors of this book.
All proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to produce more educational resources.

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of the *Heavenly Children* series is to foster the love of Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) in children and to help them establish the 14 Maʿṣūmīn as their role models. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh. We pray to Allah to give us the strength and *tawfīq* to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʿās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think 'outside of the box' by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum, and begin their life-long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of *Darse Khārij* from the *Ḥawzah* (the Highest Level of Islamic Studies in the Seminary), Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, having grown up in India, and now residing in the United States, he has had the honor of traveling to various communities and meeting many community leaders. He values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials, and to create open source platforms so that information and resources are available and accessible to everyone around the world.

You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family.
Share the word, and join the mission.

Mama, Baba, and Ahmad sat together talking about the Maʿṣūmīn. Once Ahmad had found out that they were going to visit all of the fourteen Maʿṣūmīn on a trip, he had been curious to know more about all of them! Mama had just told him about Imām al-Jawād (ʿa), who had been given the role of Imām at a very young age.

"So even as a boy," Ahmad said slowly, "Imām al-Jawād (ʿa) made good choices and even guided people. Wow." Mama and Baba looked at each other with knowing smiles on their faces.

Ahmad smiled up at them. "I'm excited to visit him at Kāẓimayn! Will we be visiting any more Imāms there?"

"No," Mama said. "Kāẓimayn has just the two, Imām al-Kāẓim (ʿa) and Imām al-Jawād (ʿa). After Kāẓimayn, we will go to Sāmarrāʾ, inshāʾAllāh."

"Who is buried in Sāmarrāʾ?" Ahmad asked.

"One of the Imāms buried in Sāmarrāʾ is our tenth Imām, Imām ʿAlī al-Hādī an-Naqī (ʿa)," Baba told him. "He is the son of Imām al-Jawād (ʿa) and Haḍrat Samānah. He was born on the 15th of Dhul Ḥijjah and was martyred on the 3rd of Rajab. Just like his father, he became the Imām when he was only eight years old!"

"So how did Imām al-Hādī (ʿa) end up in Sāmarrāʾ?" Ahmad asked.

"The caliph Mutawakkil, another very bad man like the caliphs before him, forced Imām al-Hādī (ʿa) to leave Medina and move to Sāmarrāʾ. He was in prison for a very long time there, and then his successor Muʿtaz poisoned our Imām (ʿa) when he was 42 years old."

"Another Imām poisoned?!" Ahmad was upset to hear this. "But why did the caliph poison him? He was jealous, too, huh?"

"Yes, Ahmad," Mama said. "See how jealousy can make someone do such terrible things as poisoning Allah's representative? The ʿAbbāsid caliphs were scared that too many people would follow Imām al-Hādī (ʿa), even if he was in prison. You see, our Imām (ʿa) was very wise, but also very humble, even from a very young age. Here's a story to show you what I mean."

Muʿtasim grunted and muttered to himself. Although he was the caliph, the ruler of the land, he pushed his food around his plate like a grumpy child. With an ugly grimace on his face, he glared around the palace courtroom. He was so furious! Gruffly, he snatched the crown off his head to wipe the beads of sweat rolling down to his eyebrows.

His vizier had been anxiously studying the caliph. It was his job to keep the caliph happy by helping him solve his problems. Working for such an unpleasant but powerful person was dangerous. If the vizier didn't do his job, he could be fired. Or worse, killed. The vizier knew he had to do something. He kneeled before Muʿtasim.

"My master," he croaked nervously, "may my father and mother be sacrificed for you — " But this only enraged Muʿtasim even more!

"Quiet!" he bellowed. "Everyone just be quiet!"

The vizier scrambled to his feet. He looked down at his shoes, avoiding the caliph's eyes. The palace guards exchanged glances, shifting tensely from one foot to the other. What would the caliph do next? Muʿtasim was known for being moody and unreasonable. When he was in a bad mood, he could give very harsh punishments. The last time he was mad, he sent a soldier to the executioner to be killed just for making a small sound!

Muʿtasim pushed himself to his feet and began pacing back and forth. “We put him in prison,” he growled to himself, “and he teaches the prison guards. We banish him from the city, and he persuades the people there. I have to…we have to…poison him!” Muʿtasim paused. Everyone held their breath. “But if we poison him, the Shīʿahs will rise against me in protest! Argh! What do I do with this family?!” He threw his arms up in frustration.

Muʿtasim was not talking about a rival ruler who had lots of riches, armies of men, and huge palaces. No, he was talking about a young, eight-year-old boy whose father, Imām al-Jawād (ʿa), he had just poisoned. He was talking about Imām ʿAlī al-Hādī (ʿa).

Despite now being orphaned and being so young, Imām al-Hādī (ʿa) had already begun his job of guiding the people to the truth. He was already winning their hearts! If the people turned towards Imām al-Hādī (ʿa), they would surely turn away from Muʿtasim.

If Muʿtasim imprisoned the young boy, the people would revolt. If he did nothing, he knew that Imām al-Hādī (ʿa) would earn everyone's love and loyalty. They would no longer tolerate Muʿtasim's tyrannical rule, and they would overthrow him! After all, people always seemed to find their way towards the truth. Muʿtasim had to do something!

Muʿtasim stood there, fuming and raging to himself. The vizier felt like this was a good time to interrupt Muʿtasim's thoughts and cautiously said, "May I be sacrificed for you, my master. I have a good idea!" Muʿtasim sharply turned around and stalked towards his vizier.

Muʿtasim viciously grabbed the vizier's collar, glaring at him. "I will make your mother cry for you! You better not say anything ridiculous, or I will kill you!" he shrieked.

The vizier cowered under the caliph's seething breath. His mouth turned dry. He gulped. "Uh…yes, my master! Whatever you wish!"

Muʿtasim let go of the vizier's collar and shouted, "Speak!"

The vizier exhaled slowly. “He is very young,” he began. “Why don’t we bring him here and train him ourselves? I know of a Qurʾān teacher named Junaydi. He hates Prophet Muḥammad’s family. All we have to do is pay him generously, and he will teach the young boy how to hate his lineage and be loyal to you! This is much better than putting the child in jail because this way, no one will revolt against you. They will have no idea what we are doing!”

The vizier was very pleased with his own idea, but he knew Muʿtasim. If he didn’t like the vizier’s suggestion, he could lose his temper again. The vizier waited nervously for Muʿtasim to respond.

Muʿtasim stared at the vizier for a moment then looked away. As he bit into an apple, the juice trickled down into his mustache and beard.

The vizier and all the guards were on edge with suspense. What did Muʿtasim think of this evil plan? All of a sudden, he began laughing hysterically. Chunks of apple flew out of his mouth as his shoulders shook with each laugh. He wiped the spit from his mouth with his sleeve. He sneered gleefully at the vizier. “I knew you were the smartest vizier I could find!”

Muʿtasim grabbed a bag of gold and threw it at the vizier. The bag hit his chest so hard that he lost his balance. The gold coins spilled all over the floor. The vizier thanked the caliph profusely as he scrambled on his hands and knees, chasing after the scattering coins.

That same evening, the caliph sent a messenger to Junaydi with a letter and two bags of gold coins. Upon seeing the bags of gold, Junaydi promptly accepted the job and told the messenger to send Imām al-Hādī (ʿa) to his school the next day.

The next morning, as all the children filed into Qurʾān class, Junaydi eagerly looked around for Imām al-Hādī (ʿa). He didn't see a new student amongst all the children!

Something caught the corner of his eye. Suddenly, he realized the young Imām (ʿa) was sitting right next to him! And he was the only child without a Qurʾān!

Junaydi smiled to himself. *Ha! This child probably doesn't know anything! I can even translate the āyahs of the Qurʾān however I like, and he won't have a clue!* he thought smugly.

A month later, Junaydi was summoned to the palace. Muʿtasim wanted to know how Junaydi's little student was doing.

As he walked into the courtroom, Junaydi respectfully bowed before the caliph. The caliph was in the middle of a meal, but when he saw that Junaydi had arrived, he didn't even wait to swallow his bite. With a mouth full of food, he sputtered, "So, what news do you have about the boy?!" He was so excited to hear if their plan was working!

Calmly, Junaydi said, "My master, please do not say boy; say teacher."

Muʿtasim immediately stopped chewing. His jaw fell open and all the glee on his face disappeared. He was shocked. "What do you mean, 'teacher'?!" he shouted with an angry grimace.

"My master, everyone knows me as a teacher. But this child is much more educated than I am!" Junaydi replied. Muʿtasim gulped. He curled his fingers into tight fists and his nose flared. Junaydi continued, "He has memorized the entire Qurʾān and even points out *my* mistakes! He doesn't bring a Qurʾān to class, but whenever I ask him to recite from a long surah, he knows where to start and end. When I hear him recite the verses, I feel like *I* know nothing. He knows the answers to the most challenging questions; I swear his knowledge is from Allah! What could *I* possibly teach *him*? He is my teach — "

“STOOOOOP!” Muʿtasim had stood up, gripping the arms of his chair with white knuckles. He was panting in fury, and beads of sweat had started rolling into his eyebrows. The vizier, the guards, and the court attendants all stood still, waiting.

The caliph ran towards one of his guards and snatched his sword. Everyone looked at Junaydi, but it wasn’t Junaydi Muʿtasim was aiming for! Like a raging bull, Muʿtasim charged towards his vizier, sword pointing right at his head. “I told you I would make your mother cry!”

Everyone watched as the vizier bolted out of the palace hall, never to be seen again.

Ḥayāt al-Imām ʿAlī al-Hādī (ʿa), P. 171

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All Glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

Akhlāq: Islamic morals and ethics

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* of the Qurʾān, which is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Āyah(s): A verse of in the Qurʾān

Baba: Father

Duʿāʾ: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Kaʿbah: The most Sacred Mosque for Muslims, situated in Mecca and is the direction of prayer

Mama: Mother

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

MāshāʾAllāh: As God wishes

Maʿṣūmīn: One who is inerrant (free of all sins, flaws, and impurities) through the divine protection and knowledge of Allah

Qurʾān: The holy book of Muslims

SubḥānAllāh: All Glory and Praise belongs to God

Tawfīq: Divine blessings from God (Allah) that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

Ziyārah: Visiting the house of Allah, grave of the Noble Prophet, Imāms and other important personalities

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars

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